

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 04972 061121Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6061

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FOR NEA/INS; NEA/PAB

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, IN, BG
SUBJECT: BANGLADESH: BG PL-480 TITLE I COTTON REQUIREMENTS

REF: STATE 211328

1. SUMMARY. BANGLADESH WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING UP TO 80,000 BALES OF RAW COTTON FOR DELIVERY MAY-OCTOBER 1978 UNDER NEW FY 78 PL-480 TITLE I AGREEMENT. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS U.S. MAKE AVAILABLE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE OF THIS AMOUNT UNDER FY 78 AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. MARKETING DIRECTOR OF STATE-OWNED BANGLADESH TEXTILES INDUSTRIES CORPORATION (BTIC), WHICH IS SOLE IMPORTER OF COTTON FOR BANGLADESH, INFORMED EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 6 THAT BTIC TENTATIVELY PLANS TO ISSUE TENDERS FOR 80,000 BALES OF RAW COTTON DURING JANUARY-JUNE 1978 FOR DELIVERY MAY-OCTOBER 1978. JOINT SECRETARY FOR PLANNINGRMINISTRY LATER CONFIRMED THIS AS BDG'S TENTATIVE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTMENT.

BDG NOW PLANNING TO ISSUE TENDERS FOR THIS 80,000 BALES AS FOLLOWS: JANUARY 15,000 BALES; FEBRUARY 10,000
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BALES; MARCH 15,000 BALES; APRIL 15,000 BALES; MAY 15,000 BALES; JUNE 10,000 BALES. THIS TENDER SCHEDULE IS BASED ON MONTHLY REQUIREMENTS OF MILLS AND ASSUMPTION THAT DELIVERY THROUGH NORMAL PROCUREMENT CHANNELS WILL TAKE FOUR-FIVE MONTHS.

3. BDG WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE AS MUCH OF THIS 30,000

BALES AS IS AVAILABLE UNDER PL-480, ASSUMING DELIVERIES CAN BE SPACED ROUGHLY ACCORDING TO PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE DESCRIBED IN PARA 2.

4. BANGLADESH'S FY 77/78 (JULY-JUNE) OPERATING REQUIREMENTS FOR COTTON OF 200,000 BALES WILL BE MET BY: 144,000 BALES NOW IN STOCK OR IN TRANSIT; 75,000 BALES RECENTLY TENDERED FOR; 10,000 BALES PURCHASED FROM COLOMBIA FOR DELIVERY DECEMBER-JANUARY; 30,500 BALES TO BE PURCHASED IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER FOR ARRIVAL IN FEBRUARY-MARCH. EIGHTY THOUSAND ADDITIONAL BALES, FOR WHICH PL-480 COTTON IS SOUGHT, WOULD PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS RESERVE PLUS TWO MONTHS OPERATING SUPPLIES FOR FY 79 BASED ON MONTHLY REQUIREMENT OF MILLS OF APPROXIMATELY 16,000 BALES,

5. IN THE ABSENCE OF PL-480 FINANCING FOR 80,000 BALES, BDG HOPES THAT BULK OF 80,000 WILL BE FINANCED BY IDA CREDITS AND CASH IF AVAILABLE. THIS IS, HOWEVER, UNCERTAIN.

6. IN RECENT YEARS BANGLADESH HAS PURCHASED A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF ITS RAW COTTON NEEDS FROM THE U.S. FOR EXAMPLE, OUT OF A TOTAL OF 180,774 BALES IMPORTED IN FY 76, 117,000 BALES WERE PURCHASED FROM U.S. SUPPLIERS UNDER CASH OR IDA FINANCING. THE USSR SUPPLIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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35,000 BALES OF BDG'S CURRENT STOCK OF 144,000 BALES UNDER BARTER AGREEMENT. WE HAVE REQUESTED DATA FROM BDG ON SOURCES OF ALL COTTON PURCHASED UNDER LAST THREE YEARS AND WILL CABLE UMR ESTIMATE WHEN RECEIVED.

4. BULK OF BANGLADESH'S COTTON REQUIREMENTS IS FOR ONE-INCH STAPLE LENGTH AND THIRTY-ONE INCHES OVER THIRTY-TWO INCHES STAPLE LENGTH.

8. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS U.S. MAKE AVAILABLE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE OF 80,000 BALES BDG REQUESTS UNDER FY 78 TITLE I AGREEMENT. MASTERS

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